

## **Amherst Conservation Commission Minutes Approved**

Amherst Town Hall – June 12, 2011

**Meeting called to order** at 7:08 PM by John Harvey

**Attendance:** John Harvey, Jim Bowen, Bill Wichman, Rich Hart, Gary Cole, Jack Gleason, Anne Krantz, Alternates Bruce Beckley, Lee Gilman, Daryl D'Angelo, Selectman Dwight Brew

**Chair comments:** Thanks to Bruce and Rich for recent articles on Grater Woods and Invasive Species in Citizen

Agenda adjustments – No Tom Carr, but Dawn Tuomala

**Minutes:** Minutes from April and May approved as sent

**Treasurer – Bill**

Land	\$301,879.42
Gift	\$9,844.33
Budget	( 2,707.00) Paid Skip Lyle, received payment of \$750 from Steve Blais for fertilizer.

Still waiting for Fish & Game meadow Grant funds

Approved

**Planning Board – Rich**

At last meeting looked at the preliminary plans and drawings for the LaBelle Winery on Rt.101 next to Bragdon sledding hill. Rich asked about the possibility of using their parking lot for overflow sledders.

Next meeting to discuss implementing the new Master Plan as it isn't being considered in decisions yet – like bike paths along resurfaced roads.

The Amherst Heritage Commission's proposal for a demolition notification ordinance was discussed and a sub-committee appointed.

Rich will resume work on crafting a Ridge-line Protection Ordinance for next Town meeting

**Jim - D&F and DES and Intent-to-Cut notices**

1. Arnold timber Harvest at 29 Austin Rd. (ACC holds an easement on the land) A forestry plan by James Bennett has been submitted. Concern that it does not show a buffer along the Bi-centennial Trail – ACC wants 25' feet wooded buffer on either side of trail.
2. Household of Faith Intent to Cut on Merrimack Rd. Too late to comment as the huge old oak stand on the esker has been harvested.
3. Map 5 Lot 26 Tamposi - Intent to Cut
4. Map 12 -28 North Hollis Rd. Plans for a landscaping business – Souhegan Land Care

**Tim Ferwerda, Meridian Land Services for Scott Mobley owner of Map 7 Lot 83-50,**

Needs a ZBA variance to build a shed on blocks on residential property on Boston Post Rd (near Wilkins school), and wants ACC comments before going before the ZBA. The shed will be located within in setbacks. The plans call for mitigation for increased roof runoff – a rain

garden along one side of shed to infiltrate the runoff. The drive is gravel. No WRMP needed because there will be no excavation. Jim moved and Gary 2nd ACC approval. Passed.

**Dawn Tuomala of Monadnock Survey** Lot 6-100 on Baboosic Lake Rd. Continued review of the new drive (8% grade) to proposed back lot. See May minutes, when approval was tabled pending more detailed plans for the driveway. She presented revised plans showing contour details and a revised 300 foot long sock berm (12" high by 2' wide that is permanent). The sock berm is divided into three sections that are designed differently to best function to infiltrate the water runoff; grass swale for 100 near house, 4" stone ditch in middle section, and a 'U' shaped grass swale ending with a stone level spreader near the new lot lone. She said that a 100 year flood would easily be handled by this sock device; that there is not much change in water level during flood situations on this site ( water table is always high???) Discussion. Jim moved that the plan be approved; Bill 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

### **OHRV Policy on Town Lands**

John explained that when he presented the new ACC Motorized Vehicle Policy to the Selectmen, they asked if ACC had considered changing it to a legal Ordinance so they town can enforce infractions. Since that meeting John researched what other towns do and he presented copies of the Amherst Policy and a new Ordinance based on one from Windham, NH.

Discussion about definitions, and the problem of snowmobiles. If enough snow they do no damage to the land, but certainly can be a nuisance to neighbors.

Jack thinks that snowmobiles should not be allowed on actively farmed ACC fields.

The idea of written permission to be carried by the operator was suggested.

Bruce moved that snowmobiles and bikes be handled separately by different ordinances.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Discussion; Gary noted that the problem began with a complaint about snowmobiles on Bertha Rogers land. Dwight pointed out that the Selectmen want to be able to take action when there are complaints. Jack – what is Bedford's policy – no snowmobiles. Gary – advocated for written day permits to be carried by operator.

Question called; Voted No to separating snowmobile ordinance from bike ordinance.

Gary moved that ACC amend its draft policy to include the option for ACC to authorize by issuing day permits case by case, for the use of snowmobiles on ACC land when there is sufficient amount of snow as determined by the Commission, to be carried by vehicle operator, that specifies the land that can be used, and to include group permits. 2<sup>nd</sup>. No further discussion. Passed.

### **Jack - Meadow Management**

Steve Blais paid ACC \$750.00 for fertilizer as agreed

Jack was asked make a presentation about meadow management to the Bedford CC. The town now understands that the Joppa Farm has not adequately managed the Joppa Fields – they have been allowed to decline. One of the difficulties is that each of the two Joppa fields crosses the town line. Amherst has done extensive reclamation work on the Amherst field, but Bedford has not. The other field is predominately in Bedford with a small section in Amherst. The hope is that each town will maintain the entire field that is predominately in their town. This

will be discussed at the Bedford Town Council Meeting on June 23; Jack will be out of town. Bruce will attend.

Mike will mow the Amherst field in August.

The NH Dept of Agriculture sent a letter to Walnut Hollow Farm as a result of a site visit on May 12 to review manure management practices. The excerpted 'findings' included in the letter follow:

**FINDINGS: (OF THE INVESTIGATION BY THE NH DEPT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS AND FOOD.)**

"Manure is stored below the paddocks area across a public access "rail trail". Reviewing documents from former (2006) investigations, it is apparent the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) believed manure was not stored on site, but rather properly disposed of off site. Documents from a year prior, (2005) indicated NHDAMF recommendations to provide a manure storage structure of sufficient capacity to contain all manure and bedding materials produced by stabled animals during winter months. This recommendation included a requirement for manure and bedding material removal on at least a semi-annual basis.

There is no manure storage structure to be found. Manure is being stockpiled immediately adjacent to wetland areas, and it appears manure is also being spread and graded through the wetland area. Evidence indicates manure has been present in the stockpiled location for at least a year. These current practices appear to be contrary to DES findings from 2006, and are directly contrary to the recommendations made by NHDAMF in 2005.

These documents are included for reference, and were received as part of the complaint. "

**Recommendations:**

"Remove manure from the entire wetland area and cease further deposition.

Please respond to this letter within 15 days of receipt with an explanation of how the farm plans to incorporate BMP recommendations, or how you propose to achieve compliance with the new Hampshire Best Management Practices for Manure. The time needed to accomplish bringing the farm into compliance should be included, and any time frame exceeding thirty days should be explained."

Thomas Sloan, RS, Agricultural Inspector

Letter sent to Andy Chapman, DES clean Lakes Program Coordinator.

Jack noted that if no compliance Ag turns the case over to DES Wetlands who has enforcement capabilities.

## Other Business

Arnold Timber Harvest – John will contact Matt Arnold to pass on the ACC request for 25' buffers along each side of the trail

Woosley Fire – a camp fire got out of control and burned an acre – and in Merrimack. The Merrimack Fire Dept responded. In the process of putting out the fire, they discovered a hidden cistern that needs a new cover. Bill will cover with a slab of concrete.

**Bill** – John signed an Eagle acceptance letter for Mark Valino to install two bridges at the Lorden Tract. 2 books about quarries were donated – interesting as relates to Patch Hill quarry. A sign is being made for the quarry site that will include some historic photos.

**Rich** – working on an article for the paper about ACC efforts to combat Invasive plants, and the program Doug Cygan is presenting on June 23 at the library. Doug is the Invasives Species coordinator for the NH dept of Agriculture. (Rescheduled for this Week – Wed., July 13!!!)

**Rich** will add info about invasives to the ACC web page – needs links.

**Fourth of July** – John has requested booth space. Bruce will set up a small booth to sell Walk Books, Rich may be able to add a display about invasives.

## Round Table

**Jack** – learned that there are grasshopper and savannah sparrows at cemetery Field meadow. He passed around a plastic bag with a poison sumac leaf that he found at the Pond Parrish parking lot. Worse than poison ivy for itchy rash.

**Lee** – Going ahead with the invasives project to eliminate Japanese knotweed from Amherst roadsides. He will apply for a permit to spray in the ROW along roads where it is popping up. Discussed contacting abutting homeowners – maybe a flier in their mailboxes explaining the project and the need for them to take action if it is creeping onto their land. Anne will keep a list of sites and help with the neighbor notification. DPW had success last year combating it on Courthouse Rd and at the Highway Dept land along Dodge Rd. Perry Day will continue his control program. Lee hopes to work at the canoe port in the fall where so many invasive species have degraded the property. Bill has the tarps we used last year for covering the cuttings to kill them.

**Anne** – Urged members to attend the Invasive Species program June 23 at library

**Gary** – mentioned the new leaf app:

<http://www.rdmag.com/News/2011/06/Environment-Software-Imaging-Tree-identification-packaged-in-an-app/>

The Founders Landing development is starting the next phase and Gary noticed that they have cut across the Class VI road and put up a barrier of boulders to prevent use of the road. He

noted that the Town voted specifically not to discontinue this road: March 13, 2007 Warrant Article 25: Discontinuation of a Portion of North Street (By Petition)

*"We the undersigned citizens of Amherst request the discontinuation of a portion of the Class VI section of North Street starting at Lyndeborough Road and continuing south for 2510 (+-)."*

Pg 18, 2006 Town Report. 2007 Town Report pg 133 – Article #25. Yes 1104 **No 1159**

Dwight will look into the situation.

**Bruce** – the pumpkin patch along the Souhegan River has been sold; sellers claimed 9 lots are possible.

A group called New England Climate Summer (student interns who bike around New England - <http://www.newenglandclimatesummer.org/climate-summer-internship>) is coming July 25 -30 and needs projects. P MEC suggested.

**Rich** – George May who chairs the Souhegan River Advisory Council, has been very sick and Rich has been filling in managing the salmon release program with local schools. Needs help next Tues. behind the Milford Drive-in.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Krantz, secretary